

STAT

INSIDE THE BELTWAY

The Washington Post _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Washington Times A-3
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The Christian Science Monitor _____
 New York Daily News _____
 USA Today _____
 The Chicago Tribune _____

Date 21 June '88

The Secret Team

The yapping pack of puppies hot in pursuit of a connection, any connection, between George Bush and illegal pro-Contra activities has apparently treed another phantom. Their quarry was Felix Rodriguez, an ex-CIA counterinsurgency expert. "I have been portrayed as a very close friend of the vice president, which I wish I was," Mr. Rodriguez said in an interview. He said he's only met Mr. Bush twice, and he denounced as "very erroneous" media reports that say his ties with the Republican presidential candidate reach back to the CIA. "I never met the vice president when I was in the agency, even though when I retired, he was the director at the time — but I never met him, or saw him at any time," he said.

Mr. Rodriguez also told us about how Cuban-Americans in Miami perceive the Christic Institute suit against an alleged U.S. paramilitary 'secret team.' "People who are not named by the Christic Institute are very upset because people say that they are not strong enough against Castro. . . . So it's a matter of pride if you are named there. If your name doesn't appear, people get concerned," he said.